

## Preface to the Second Printing

THIS STUDY was originally published as a Columbia dissertation in 1924 and has long been out of print. It has been cited or quoted in a sufficient number of subsequent works to create a demand for copies, which had become very difficult to obtain. For that reason it is now being republished.

The text, the bibliography of seventeenth-century critical writings, and the bibliography of the Collier controversy are reproduced exactly as they originally appeared. The book now has, however, two additions: an index, and the bibliography of relevant modern discussions of the immediate subject, prepared by Professor G. S. Alleman of Rutgers University. Professor Alleman is at present engaged in the compilation of a general bibliography of material relating to the literature of the period, and he has very generously selected from his collections this list of books and articles bearing directly upon the subject matter of the present study. The list does not include studies of individual dramatists and is confined to those works which are immediately relevant to the special purpose of this book.

Since *Comedy and Conscience* was first published, the drama of the Restoration and the early eighteenth century has been extensively studied and our knowledge of it enormously increased. The author feels that for this reason, and because this book was written when he was a young student, it could not be revised without being to a large extent rewritten. Minor revisions would suggest that no others were necessary to make the work what he would now have it; and since that would be far from the case he has decided to let it

stand, in the hope that it contains enough material not elsewhere available to make it still useful. As a glance at Professor Alleman's bibliography will show, its central subject has not often been investigated as a whole in subsequent studies. No work surveying the same field from the same points of view seems to have superseded it.

Professor Alleman has pointed out to me two errors which should be corrected. (1) I should never have implied that Charles II was personally responsible for the attack on Sir John Coventry, even though that attack was supposed to be in retaliation for an insult to him. (2) The once general belief that the Earl of Rochester arranged for the beating of Dryden in Rose Alley has at least been called in question in an article by J. Harold Wilson in the *Review of English Studies* for July, 1939.

Attention should be called to the fact that D. C. Taylor's *William Congreve* (Oxford, 1931) makes some few additions to the bibliography of books and pamphlets which constitute the Collier controversy. *The Critical Works of John Dennis*, edited by E. N. Hooker (Baltimore, 1939) dates more precisely a number of pamphlets of which only the year of publication is given in the present study. Mr. Hooker's review in *Modern Language Notes* for May, 1929, of Sister Rose Anthony's *The Jeremy Collier Stage Controversy 1698-1726* gives reasons for attributing to specific authors two works listed in my bibliography as anonymous.

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